

Abstract of the Disclosure

A key word is first and automatically extracted from a character string group to be recognized, and entered. Then, a character is recognized by segmenting an individual character from a character string image to be recognized, and a character string corresponding to the extracted/entered key word is extracted. Then, a word area delimited by a key word is extracted from the character string image, and a word is recognized. Furthermore, a word recognition result is verified, and a final character string recognition result is output.